

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9720

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT PFOR PU PO PAIGC

SUBJECT : PAIGC ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT

1. WHEN EMBOFFS MET VICTOR MARIA, COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF "GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU", ON APRIL 27, THEY ASKED ABOUT PAIGC ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. MARIA SAID CHANGES IN PORTUGAL WERE "POSITIVE" AND PAIGC LEADERS WERE FOLLOWING SPINOLA'S ANNOUNCEMENTS CAREFULLY. IN ABSENCE ARISTIDES PEREIRA AND OTHER PAIGC LEADERS, PAIGC STILL DISCUSSING AMONG THEMSELVES AND HAVE NOT YET ADOPTED DEFINITE PUBLIC POSITION. SPINOLA MUST FIRST TAKE HOLD IN PORTUGAL, AFTER WHICH TIME PAIGC EXPECTED SPINOLA'S AFRICAN POLICIES TO BE ENUNCIATED. MARIA VIEWED SOME DECISIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY SPINOLA AS "SURPRISING", IMPLYING THEY HAD GONE FURTHER TOWARD LIBERALIZING REGIME THAN SPINOLA IMPLIED IN HIS BOOK. HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO MOVEMENT AGAINST

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DGS, FIRING OF OVERSEAS GOVERNORS, AND FREEING OF POLITICAL

PRISONERS.

2. MARIA SAID FOR "GUINEA-BISSAU" MAIN CONCERN IS WHETHER SPINOLA WILL BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH "GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU" FOR PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWAL. IF SO, FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO "COUNTRIES" CAN BE ARRANGED. FOR PAIGC, GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL CAN BE "REACTIONARY", "DEMO-CRATIC" OR WHATEVER, "THAT IS BUSINESS OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE". "GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU" WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANY GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON BASIS OF COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE. FEDERATION DOES NOT INTEREST THEM.

3. IN ANSWER TO EMBOFFS QUESTION, MARIA DENIED AMILCAR CABRAL HAD EVER MET SPINOLA BUT SAID SENGHOR HAD MET WITH SPINOLA SEVERAL TIMES. MARIA NOTED THAT SPINOLA AND HIS CHIEF MILITARY SUPPORTERS ALL HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN "GUINEA-BISSAU", KNEW THE PEOPLE THERE WELL AND HAD LEARNED A GREAT DEAL.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC REACTION FROM REPUBLIC OF GUINEA CONCERNING EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. MARIA COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY GOG REACTION WOULD BE COORDINATED WITH PAIGC.

5. COMMENT: WHILE MARIA OBVIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANGES IN PORTUGAL, WE DO NOT KNOW REACTION OF YOUNGER MILITARY WHO TEND GENERALLY TO TAKE HARDER LINE. MARIA IS BRIGHT, WELL INFORMED AND ARTICULATE AND AMONG MORE PRAGMATIC LEADERS OF PAIGC. HE WELL AWARE OF ROLE AFRICAN WARS HAVE PLAYED IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES IN PORTUGAL AND TOGETHER WITH LUIS CABRAL AND ARISTIDES PEREIRA COULD BE EXPECTED TO ENCOURAGE ANYONE IN PORTUGAL WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE "STATE OF GUINEA-BISSAU" AND NEGOTIATE WITH ITS LEADERS FOR PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWAL. END COMMENT.
HAVERKAMP

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